

WSDA Nursery Advisory Committee Meeting

June 26, 2015, 9:00 am to noon, WSDOT Maintenance Facility, Kent, WA

Attending: Roger Canfield, Jeff Sample, Breanne Chavez, Dan Meier, Todd Snyder, Jeff Van Lierop, Cindy Cooper, Lara Massey, Brad White

Guests: Alison Halpern (WSDA Noxious Weed), Gary Chastagner (WSU), Randall Hitchin (Washington Park Arboretum), Van Bobbitt (South Seattle College)

Introductions

Potential Fee Increase

Department is considering 25% increase in fees for licensing and inspection. It costs \$100k per inspector (including benefits) to run program. There's been a 30% reduction in licensees since 2008 and exports have dropped significantly in past year, reducing our program revenue. Plant Services can change the amount charged, but not the licensing levels, which are set in RCW, with legislative approval.

Suggestions from committee:

- Raise fees more for the lowest licensing level – up to \$75.
- Increase all levels by 30% instead of 25%.
- Have BLS add a line to have nurseries report their gross annual revenue on the application. Could coincide with revamping of BLS licensing database.
- Can marijuana growers be included as licensees? Cindy said they are currently excluded from licensing requirements by the Legislature, but can see it could be a possibility in the future.

Motion made (Jeff Sample) to support an increase in the lowest retailer licensing level to \$75 annually from \$50.40. Motion was seconded (Todd Snyder) and committee voted to support unanimously.

Brad White will write an article for the B&B magazine on the fee increase, for the September issue.

Upcoming rulemaking on prohibited plant species – Alison Halpern

- 1% of ornamentals become problematic.
- Two lists cause confusion (Noxious Weed list and Prohibited Plants list).

Weed Board requests these species be added to the Prohibited Plant Quarantine as of October 1, 2015:

- *Buddleia davidii*
- *Lamium*
- Non-native hawkweeds
- *Ficaria verna* (*Ranunculus*)

CR 101 process is started, but longer period than usual for review. If approved in October 2015, will be enforced at that point.

New 2016 proposed additions to the Noxious Weed list by the Noxious Weed Control Board:

- Medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*) – Class B or C
- Ventenata Grass – Class B or C
- Running bamboo (multiple genera) – Class B. All four genera not likely to be listed. Seems to be a “neighborly” issue – no potential for invading wildlands.
- English hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*) – Class C
- English foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) – Class C. This one was recommended by a citizen and still needs the vetting process.

Alison is handing out non-invasive pollinator-friendly seed packets to interested nurseries. Trying to frame message about options to help with the debate over Buddleia’s benefits as a pollinator.

Roger suggested following the ODA rule on Buddleia, and a possible exchange program. Alison and Breanne considering looking for funding for Buddleia for the west side, Ravenna Grass for Eastside.

Committee asked to be notified if Italian arum is proposed again for addition to either list. Apparently proposed in the past.

Pending Nursery Research Proposals

N-16-005 Evaluating Mahonia Species and Cultivars for Landscape Use in the Pacific Northwest: Original proposal revised based on domestic availability of Mahonia. If CIP approved for import from Europe, applicants will resubmit with a small increase in requested funding to dovetail into existing project. WSDA will provide a compliance agreement for domestic-sourced plants.

- King County Master Gardeners will provide a lot of support – 40 to 50 volunteers.
- Growing lot will be isolated with a fence at South Seattle College. Applicants would consider cheaper fencing to save on the supplies budget.
- Applicants have several letters of support from industry.

Committee moved and voted to support this proposal as revised with a recommendation to diversify funding in future proposals, and to consider patent rights for successful new cultivars.

N-16-002 Steam Treatment for Sanitation of Used Pots and Potting Media: Original proposal revised to include steaming projects at nurseries.

- Benefit of steaming is a labor and cost saving compared to chemical and hot water dips.
- Steamers are WSU-owned and not loanable, due to liability insurance so have to be set up and operated by WSU staff.
- Additional benefit - also testing for weed control in 200’ conifer beds.

Committee moved and voted to support this proposal as revised.

Next meeting scheduled for 9/25/15.